



GOVERNOR VISIT REPORT

Name: Emma Pennells	Date: Thursday 9th June 2022
Focus of visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To observe my link class 	Classes/staff visited: Mr Maher (RM) Mrs Carter (DC) Miss Grant (GG) Mrs Adamson (CA) Mr Fawcett (JF) Year 4 Class
<p>Summary of activities e.g. talking to staff and pupils, looking at resources, had lunch etc.</p> <p>Today's visit to school was an opportunity to observe the class 'in action' on a typical day. I do normally volunteer in Y4 on a Thursday so already know the class and staff well. This is a snapshot of some of the things I observed in class alongside doing my regular intervention groups and hearing individual readers.</p> <p>The day began with the whole class completing their morning challenges with JF (who was covering RM). The challenges were Maths based. After speaking to the children, they explained that they were '<i>things they had learnt before that they needed a bit more practice on</i>'. The challenges were then discussed as a whole class and any misconceptions addressed. The class then went into assembly.</p> <p>During assembly time, some children (a mix of Y3 and Y4 children) received some extra learning time with DC. They were focusing on spelling and reading. These children change slightly each week so they do not miss out on assemblies every week or other learning.</p> <p>I was out of class with 2 different intervention groups whilst the class did spelling practice with JF so didn't observe this today. As I have observed in previous weeks however, the class normally works on a booklet prepared by DC which develops their spelling knowledge linked to their reading scheme. Tasks are differentiated depending on the needs of each individual child.</p> <p>The class then had French with CA. There was lots of oral practice and some fun games too. All the class were really engaged with their learning and thoroughly enjoyed the lesson.</p> <p>During the ICT session with JF, the children were clearly enjoying their learning. There was lots of interaction between the children, sharing ideas and knowledge. They were using Purple Mash and were writing simple computer programs. They were also working on their posters for their 'Make a Difference' campaign.</p> <p>In the afternoon the children thoroughly enjoyed their PE lesson with RM. He set very clear objectives for the session. The children could clearly explain to me their</p>	



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tasks set. He ensured that all the children exercised safely in the heat, encouraging regular breaks, drinking water and taking time in the shade.

What have I learned as a result of my visit?

The children really enjoy being at school. A typical school day offers the children a broad range of different activities. The children work with a range of staff on a Thursday and they transition between these adults well.

Positive comments about the visit

It is always a pleasure to be in school, observing the learning and interacting with the children. All the staff in school are so keen to ensure the children succeed. The atmosphere is a very positive one from the moment you walk into the school.

Aspects I would like clarified/questions that I have:

I did have a few questions which I have since discussed with Miss Lightfoot so have included key notes from our discussion.

Have the refugee children settled well into Y4?

Miss Lightfoot confirmed that the children have already made tremendous progress from when they arrived just a few weeks ago. I observed in class that they were already interacting with their classmates and beginning to understand the routine of a school day. They have been very well supported by staff in school who have ensured all their needs have been met. They will continue to be supported by a range of staff in school over the coming months as they continue to flourish at Austhorpe.

How are the children with additional needs supported within class?

Miss Lightfoot appreciated my question and understood that, to the untrained eye, many interventions and alterations made for children with additional needs are often very subtle. The children may, for example, use a lighter weighted ball during a PE session or use a slightly different computer programme to the other children in the class. This was wonderful to hear, as it really shows how all children are made to feel included at Austhorpe and are not seen as 'different' by their classmates.

How are the teaching assistants used within the classroom to support the children's learning?

From my observations it was very apparent they really are the 'behind the scenes superheroes'! I was curious to find out about all the different roles they have. Miss Lightfoot explained that different teaching assistants have different roles within school so it is very difficult to just focus on one. Some work 1:1 with specific children, others support small groups and some even have whole or partial responsibility for a curriculum area. So much happens within a school day to support the children with their learning, it would be almost impossible to list them all here! All the learning is so personalised to each child and the staff know the children so well. They have taken so much care and attention to ensure the needs of the children are met.



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Ideas for future visits:

Having discussed in depth with Miss Lightfoot about the support given to children within class, I think next time it would be interesting to talk specifically to the children who are targeted for support. I would love to hear how they feel about their learning and hear about all the progress they have made in their learning.

Any other comments:

It has been a pleasure to observe the class and really interesting to discuss with Miss Lightfoot about some of the things that happen in school very much 'behind the scenes'. An incredible amount of hard work and dedication is given by all the staff in school. To hear the range of different roles members of staff have in school really is incredible. I have learnt a great deal about how all the different parts of the school team work together to support the children-it has been eye opening!

Thank you, as always, for a wonderful day. I can't wait for the next one!

Signed: *E Pennells*
(Governor)